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## **GOVERNOR O'MALLEY DELIVERS KEYNOTE AT OFFSHORE WINDPOWER CONFERENCE**

*O'Malley challenges Political and Industry Leaders to support offshore wind development to realize the job creation potential of this renewable energy source.*

**Annapolis, Maryland** (October 11, 2011)—Today, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley delivered the keynote address to the American Wind Energy Association's Offshore Windpower Conference and Exhibition held at the Baltimore Convention Center. The event, attended by more than 1,500 industry and government representatives from the United States and at least five other countries, is produced in partnership with the Offshore Wind Development Coalition, and also included a speech by The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior. Members of the Maryland legislature attended the Governor's speech, which highlighted Maryland's commitment and determination to developing offshore wind energy farms, fostering the necessary partnerships between the federal government and the states, and highlighting Maryland's assets to businesses involved in the offshore wind supply chain.

"Of all the challenges we face as a country, and of all the tough decisions we have to make together as a people, our top priority must be jobs," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Maryland has become a national leader in sustainability. We have set some of America's most aggressive goals for decreasing energy consumption in our State, and we've raised our Renewable Portfolio Standard to 20 percent by 2022. We led the charge for RGGI, the nation's first cap-and-trade auction of greenhouse gas; we've set an aggressive goal for decreasing our state's carbon footprint; and we've been succeeding at creating green jobs for Marylanders. We have on-shore wind turbines spinning in Western Maryland, and we are very much committed to making off-shore wind a reality off the coast of Ocean City. Together, with our federal, state and local partners, we can make the choices that will secure our energy future and allow our children to be winners in this changing new economy."

As the leader in the promotion of offshore wind in the Mid-Atlantic, Maryland serves as an ideal location for the conference. The world class port facilities in Baltimore and industrial and manufacturing capabilities statewide offer Maryland and the nation a unique position to benefit from offshore wind development. The United States Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory has estimated that a 500 megawatt (MW) wind project would create 2,000 manufacturing and construction jobs and an additional 400 ongoing jobs thereafter.

The Governor continued: "There's another partnership we want to form, and that's the partnership with our business leaders to advance wind energy in our State. We hope you will choose Maryland because no other state in America has the same combination of location, workforce, and world-class facilities."

Maryland has taken many great strides in developing offshore wind. For example, the state was second in the nation to have the United States Department of Interior issue a Request for Interest in Commercial

Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf. Numerous developers are currently competing for the federal lease to develop offshore wind ten miles off of Ocean City. The Maryland General Assembly is actively continuing their "summer study" of the opportunity, with multiple hearings scheduled in the coming weeks. And Maryland's offshore leasing area authorized by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement has wind speeds rated as "outstanding" by the United States Department of Energy.

"Maryland is blessed to have the combination of an exceptional wind resource at shallow depths offshore near our major load centers, like Baltimore City," said Malcolm Woolf, director of MEA. "Offshore wind has the potential to transform our energy future, advance energy independence, improve public health, and create thousands of jobs in Maryland."

For more information and a complete AWEA conference program schedule, visit <http://www.offshorewindexpo.org/>.

The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) mission is to assist Maryland citizens and businesses to save money through smart investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation. A Maryland state agency, MEA fuels the creation of green jobs by providing funds and resources to expand the use and availability of clean, safe energy in Maryland.